



AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1 (Previously amended). A kit for use with a system comprising a controller to control operation of a device for treating a tissue region and a reader to download information to the controller for controlling use of the device, the controller including a first data state prior to downloading of an identification code and a processing means for processing the identification code and enabling operation of the device if the identification code correlates in a pre-established manner with the first data state, the processing means operating, in response to enabling operation of the device, to change the first data state to a second data state that prevents subsequent operation of the device in response to downloading of the identification code, the kit comprising

the device for treating a tissue region,

a usage key card to be handled separate from the device comprising a storage medium formatted to contain the identification code, the identification code being unique to the usage key card, the usage key card being adapted to be read by the reader separate from the device to download the identification code for processing by the controller, and

packaging for containing the device and the usage key card.

2 (Original). A kit according to claim 1

wherein the usage key card comprises a floppy disk.

3 (Original). A kit according to claim 1

wherein the usage key card comprises a PC card.

4 (Original). A kit according to claim 1

wherein the usage key card comprises a magnetic card.

5 (Original). A kit according to claim 1

wherein the usage key card comprises flash memory.

6 (Original). A kit according to claim 1

wherein the storage medium is also formatted, when inserted into the reader, to retain data generated by the controller during operation of the device.

7 (Original). A kit according to claim 6

wherein the data pertains to operating conditions of the device.

8 (Original). A kit according to claim 6

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wherein the usage key card is adapted to be read by a reader to download the data to a data processing device separate from the controller.

9 (Canceled).

10 (Original). A kit according to claim 1

wherein the device applies radio frequency energy to the tissue region.

11 (Previously amended). A system for controlling use of a device for treating a tissue region comprising

a controller to control operation of the device,

a reader to download information to the controller,

a usage key card adapted to be handled separate from the device and comprising a storage medium formatted to contain an identification code unique to the usage key card that, upon reading by the reader, is downloaded to the controller, and

the controller including a first data state prior to downloading of the identification code and a processing means for processing the identification code and enabling operation of the device if the identification code correlates in a pre-established manner with the first data state, the processing means operating, in response to enabling operation of the device, to change the first data state to a second data state that prevents subsequent operation of the device in response to downloading of the identification code.

12 (Previously amended). A system according to claim 11

wherein the processing means causes the controller to create a table by registering unlike identification codes in memory as they are downloaded by the reader and to enable operation of the device when a new identification code is registered in the table.

13 (Previously amended). A system according to claim 12

wherein the processing means causes the controller to compare a given identification code downloaded by the reader to all identification codes registered in the table and to register the given identification code in the table when the given identification code does not match any identification code in the table.

14 (Previously mended). A system according to claim 13

wherein the processing means causes the controller to disable operation of the device when the given identification code matches an identification code in the table.

15 (Previously amended). A system according to claim 13

wherein the processing means causes the controller to enable operation of the device when the given identification code does not match any identification code in the table.

16 (Original). A system according to claim 11

wherein the device applies radio frequency energy to the tissue region.

17 (Previously amended). A method for controlling use of a device for treating a tissue region comprising the steps of

providing a kit containing the device and a usage key card adapted to be handled separate from the device and comprising a storage medium formatted to contain an identification code unique to the usage key card,

instructing reading of the usage key card by a reader separate from the device to download the identification code to a controller for the device, the controller having a first data state prior to downloading of the identification code,

causing the controller to process the identification code by pre-programmed rules to enable operation of the device if the identification code correlates with the first data state, and

changing, according to pre-programmed rules, the first data state to a second data state in response to enabling operation of the device, the second data state preventing a subsequent operation of the device in response to downloading of the identification code.

18 (Original). A method according to claim 17

wherein the pre-programmed rules cause the controller to create a table by registering unlike identification codes in memory as they are downloaded by the reader and to enable operation of the device when a new identification code is registered in the table.

19 (Original). A method according to claim 18

wherein the pre-programmed rules cause the controller to compare a given identification code downloaded by the reader to all identification codes registered in the table and to register the given identification code in the table when the given identification code does not match any identification code in the table.

20 (Original). A method according to claim 18

wherein the pre-programmed rules cause the controller to disable operation of the device when the given identification code matches an identification code in the table.

21 (Original). A method according to claim 18

wherein the pre-programmed rules cause the controller to enable operation of the device when the given identification code does not match any identification code in the table.

22 (Original). A method according to claim 17

wherein the device, during use, applies radio frequency energy to the tissue region.